

FACT SHEET—LIME SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The safety guidelines below are general in nature. Precautions for the specific lime product used can be found in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), which is available from your lime producer or supplier.

Worker Safety

Lime, particularly quicklime, is an alkaline material that is reactive in the presence of moisture. Workers handling lime must be trained and wear proper protective equipment.

Eye Hazards—Lime can cause severe eye irritation or burning, including permanent damage. Eye protection (chemical goggles, safety glasses and/or face shield) should be worn where there is a risk of lime exposure. Contact lenses should not be worn when working with lime products.

Skin Hazards—Lime can cause irritation and burns to unprotected skin, especially in the presence of moisture. Prolonged contact with unprotected skin should be avoided. Protective gloves and clothing that fully covers arms and legs are recommended. Particular care should be exercised with quicklime because its reaction with moisture generates heat capable of causing thermal burns.

Inhalation Hazards—Lime dust is irritating if inhaled. In most cases, nuisance dusts masks provide adequate protection. In high exposure situations, further respiratory protection may be appropriate, depending on the concentration and length of exposure (consult MSDS for applicable exposure limits).

Product Safety

Care should be taken to avoid accidental mixing of quicklime and water (in any form, including chemicals containing water of hydration) to avoid creating excessive heat. Heat released by this reaction can ignite combustible materials or cause thermal damage to property or persons.

Lime dust can be removed from vehicles using rags dampened with dilute vinegar. After applying dilute vinegar, vehicles (especially chrome surfaces) must be washed with water.

First Aid

The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the specific lime product should always be consulted for detailed first aid information. The following guidelines are general in nature.

If skin contact occurs, brush off dry lime and then wash exposed skin with large amounts of water. If skin burns occur, administer first aid and seek medical attention, if necessary.

If lime comes in contact with the eyes, they should first be flushed with large amounts of water. Seek medical attention immediately after administering first aid.

For inhalation, remove exposed person to fresh air. Seek medical attention immediately after administering first aid.

For further steps, consult the MSDS and follow the instructions of medical personnel.

Revised: 1/22/2004